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REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action mailed May 19, 2006, in the above-identified patent application is respectfully acknowledged.

Pursuant to CFR 1.7 and 1.8, Applicants are mailing this Response with a Certificate of Mailing by first class mail to The Commissioner for Patents on Monday, August 21, 2006, since the last day for the period for response to the Office Action mailed May 19, 2006, fell on Saturday, August 19, 2006. In the event an extension of time is deemed necessary, Applicants hereby petition for a one month extension of time to and including September 18, 2006, in which to file this Response, and hereby authorize the fee for such extension of time to be charged to Deposit Account No. 22-0190. However, it is believed this Response is being timely filed, and that no such extension should be necessary.

Claims 47-49, 51-60, 62-114, 116-124, 126-144 and 146-172 remain in the application. Claims 1-46 were previously cancelled. Claims 50, 61, 115, 125 and 145 are cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 47, 51-53, 56, 80, 83, 90, 112, 116, 142 and 146 have been amended herein. Entry of the above amendments and reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

With reference to Paragraph 6 of the Office Action, it is noted that the undersigned counsel has not received with the Office Action any listing of prior art made of record and/or not relied upon. Further, the "Walker" reference mentioned by the Examiner is not sufficiently identified to allow Applicants to review it. Request is made for additional identification of the prior art made of record.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 47-172 under 37 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, as failing to comply with the requirement for a written description and as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Applicants have now amended the specification and various of the claims in a manner which is believed to overcome the Examiner's rejections under both the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants have carefully considered and have responded to the Examiner's comments such that it is respectfully submitted that the claims contain subject matter fully described in the specification. Further, the claims are now considered definite and point out and distinctly claim Applicants' inventive subject matter.

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In addition, the Examiner objected to the claims as being unduly multiplied. As set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims as being unduly multiplied but herewith present a list of the following thirty claims for consideration in view of that rejection: 47, 49, 52, 53, 56, 62, 73, 82-85, 90, 94, 106, 112, 114, 116-118, 120, 137, 142, 144, 146-149, 151, 167 and 172. Reconsideration of the above amendments and the indicated thirty claims is respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

Initially, it is noted that Applicants have amended the specification at pages 12 and 13 in the description of the embodiment shown in Fig. 7 relating to a preferred embodiment of Applicants' invention including a power strip which, in the accompanying claims, is referred to as an attachment member comprising at least one elongated member, the elongated member comprising an electrical conductor. The specification at pages 12 and 13 relating to Fig. 7 has been amended to state that the power strip 230 provides an attachment member for accessories and includes a channel 238 within which are received one or more electrically powered accessories 240, such as map lights and the like. Further, it is now stated that accessories 240 received and attached within channel 238 are preferably moveable to any one of a number of positions within channel 230 to suit the need of the operator in a manner like that of track lighting in buildings. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification or claims.

The amendments to pages 12 and 13 now clarify that the attachment member referred to in independent claims 47, 112 and 142, as amended, comprises an elongated member, the elongated member comprising an electrical conductor. Claim 83, as amended, states that the attachment member comprises an elongated member. Moreover, a vehicle interior accessory component is defined in these claims as including an attachment element adapted for receipt by the attachment member. In the preferred embodiment of Fig. 7, the attachment member is an elongated power strip disposed at a roof portion of the interior of the vehicle taking the form of a channel within which are received one or more electrically powered accessories such as map lights or the like in the nature of track lighting within a building. Accordingly, it is now clear that, as set forth in Applicants' specification, the attachment member is the elongated member while the vehicle interior accessory component includes an attachment element adapted for receipt by the attachment member. Further, certain of the claims such as claims 47, 112, and 142, as amended, as well as the claims dependent thereon, now define the elongated member comprising an electrical conductor

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providing power to the vehicle interior accessory component which is received in the elongated attachment member. Therefore, Applicants' specification now identifies the subject of the claimed invention with at least one embodiment for purposes of a clear reading of the claims now selected for prosecution.

Moreover, Applicants have selected thirty claims which, in view of the specification amendments set forth above, are not ambiguous, but rather clearly and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants' dependent claims 49, 52, 56, 62, 73, 82, 84, 85, 90, 94, 106, 114, 116-118, 120, 137, 144, 146-149, 151, 167 and 172 provide further definition of Applicants' invention in relation to the amended specification, including the preferred embodiment of Fig. 7 as set forth above. It is respectfully submitted that, as amended, these claims including the amended independent claims, can now be fully understood and searched. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the Examiner that the claims, as previously presented, were unduly multiplied. The remaining claims as elected in Applicants' Response filed April 17, 2006, to the restriction/election of March 13, 2006, do not unduly repeat, multiply or confuse the definition of Applicants' invention. As noted in MPEP § 2173.05(n), undue multiplicity rejections based on 37 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be applied judiciously and should be rare. In view of the above amendments to the specification and claims, it is respectfully submitted that upon review by the Examiner of the selected thirty claims, any additional claims elected in the Response filed April 17, 2006, should also be examined and allowed with amended independent claims 47, 83, 112, and 142.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the thirty claims selected above as well as the additional claims elected in Applicants' Response of April 17, 2006,

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should be fully examined. A Notice of Allowance for all of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. CARTER ET AL.

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

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Date

Donald S. Gardner
Donald S. Gardner
Registration No. 25 975
P.O. Box 888695
2851 Charlevoix Drive, S.E., Suite 207
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49588-8695
(616) 975-5502

DSG/ram